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Vol. I. July 7, No. 34. 1876.

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3 Yumorous and Satirical Journal.

Vol. I .- No. 34.

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MANCHESTER: FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1876.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

A QUIET DAY AT BELLE VUE.

[BY PATERFAMILIAS.]

EING a family man confessing an honest delight in the social life of my own fireside, and a special interest in the diversions of my rising ismily, it is my custom occasionally-as, for example, in celebration of birthdays and other fêtes occurring in the summer months-to take the entire household for an outing. Being, furthermore, a poor man, whose pleasure must be regulated by a strict regard for economy, I have sometimes been at a loss how to make both ends meet in spending these holidays, which I am thankful thicken and multiply at tolerably regular intervals. As the number of my olive branches increases it becomes more difficult to arrange the oft-recurring pienies and trips to Buxton, Matlock, or Southport. In these circumstances Materfamilias and I somewhat plume ourselves on the discovery of Belle Vue. Discovery of Belle Vue! We in imagination hear the reader echo the words in surprise. Why, the place is as well known as the Town Hall-aye, and better, since in Manchester there are many Town Halls-so we will amend the sentence, and say, as well known as the Town Clerk, for there is only one Town Clerk, and his name is Sir Joseph. Yes, everybody knows Belle Vue, and I own to having seen there as many pictures as old Mr. Danson has painted. He is diffident about stating the number, and I desire to follow his judicious example of silence on that head. But how few Manchester people know the place in its social daylight aspects! The Derbyshire or Staffordshire yokel and his sweetheart, who arrive on the ground early in the forenoon and have not exhausted its marvels or wearied of its diversified attractions when, the display of fireworks having crowned a happy day, they hurry off well pleased to the return excursion train in waiting for them at Longsight or the new station at Gorton, probably know its curiosities, its exhaustless forms of amusement, its nooks and corners better than nine-tenths of the townsfolk who visit it perhaps half a dozen times a year. Staid go-to-meeting people like ourselves—frightened by the random objurgations of the Bishop and Mr. Hugh Mason, and others of the "unco guid," whose candour (in a Sheridanian sense) sometimes exceeds their charity, and who are fond of denouncing as sour and mwholesome grapes which they have not tasted-generally eschew the place, and think it necessary, when they are stumbled over by an acquaintance seated in the covered gallery in flutter of pleased anticipation of the guishot which signals the beginning of the pyrotechnic display, to make mofuse explanations to the effect that it "is only once a year," that they "have a friend from the country visiting them," and that "it is a pity to miss the picture," etc. Good, happy people! why should you be so much abashed? To me and a family of merry children, in whose jocund laughter there is no guile, these gardens are a wholesome, instructive, and entertaining resort. We leave, it is true, before night has fallen, lecause the youngsters' bedtime has come, and we pride ourselves on leeping a regular household—what in Scotland are called elders' hours lat I see no harm in holding out the prospect to my eldest boy and girl that in a year or two, if they are good, they will be allowed to remainwith me " to see the fireworks."

The way in which we spend the day is this. Setting out after an early dinner, and selecting, if possible, an off-day—that is a Tuesday, Thursday, of Friday, when the gardens are quietest—we reach the ground about three, heavily laden with satchels and various oddly-shaped packages containing our supply of sandwiches, cake, tea, and other mysteries, upon the preparation of which the good mother has spent the morning.

Directly we are inside the grounds there is a general burst from our care, and the boys, like hounds unleashed, are scampering off amongst the macaws, parroquets, and cockatoos, pretending to renew old acquaintance. The picture has its share of admiration before we diverge to the right, where, if the steam velocipedes are going, the entire family are soon mounted, and whooping and hallooing as they chase each other round the mimic circus. If the "Little Britain" has got up steam we make one circuit of the lake, under license of the Board of Trade, before transshipping into one of those capacious, unupsettable, flat-bottomed boats or barges, which are let out to visitors by the hour. Having the lake practically to ourselves we steer a clear course, disturbing the wild fowl near the island, and flushing a brace of rather shame-faced lovers near the Gorton end, cooing together on one of those

"Seats beneath the shade, For talking age and whispering lovers made,"

which the Messrs. Jennison have considerately placed in these retired nooks. But the greatest fun of all is when Uncle Tom and I with an oar each take to rowing against each other, and the heavy boat, instead of making any progress, begins to wheel round in rapid but eccentric gyrations, which very much puzzle some of the beholders on the bank. Cooling the enthusiasm of the youngsters with a few penny ices (though with the fear of the careful Mater before my eyes, I will not venture to specify how many one or more of the boys consume), we scamper across the Italian garden to the bear-pits, where sundry attempts to bribe the white bears into their pond, and the brown ones to the top of their ladder, are made amid great gleethe former successful, the latter an ignominious failure. It is the breathing time of day with Bruin, and his ambition will not vault. Passing over the lawn at the back of the picture we reach the ponds dedicated to waterfowl, and a special tank in which we have the good luck to see the seals feeding. We are tempted into the maze, but the site of the long necks of two giraffes grazing in the paddock is too much for us, and we are attracted towards them. These graceful animals—the type of haughty aristocrats with small heads and very little in them, combined with an uncommon assumption of dignity-afford us much amusement and the foundation for sundry jokes, which, at any rate, make the children laugh. The youngsters are fresh enough even to appreciate that old saying concerning the difficulty of dealing with a yard of sore throat. Much as we enjoy ourselves among the zoological collection, and afterwards in the gardens, and especially at the beaver-pond-a department of Messrs. Jennison's enterprise which is every year extending, and can only be maintained at great cost in the purchase of attractive novelties, and the provision of suitable food-detail regarding our proceedings would be vain and wearisome. But before we settle down to tea, let us step for half an hour into the Museum. We suspect the proportion of visitors to the gardens who even enter the Museum is very small, and yet it is one of the most interesting sights within the grounds. To begin with, the serpent boxes are a real wonder. There they lie folded up in immense coils, some of them nearly as thick as a blacksmith's arm, but stingless, and unless they can get a chance of a bite, quite harmless. An obliging attendant lifted out two or three of the smaller specimens, which very soon began to disperse with a gliding motion over the floor, costing no little trouble in their recovery. The Museum comprises two long galleries, each lined on either side with glass cases, in which are exhibited the stuffed forms of animals which have closed their public career in the gardens. If the attendant is in a chatty humour, you may learn from him strange tales as to their history.

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But the tea! That is the crowning event of the day. Materfamilias has brought ample supplies of her best Bohea, and hot water is to be had in the room set apart for private pienic parties, such as ours, at a nominal charge. The place is virtually our own at present, though other family parties by-and-by drop into the room; and with our own snowy table-cloth neatly spread, and covered with dishes (of which any supply can be had at the counter), on which appetising dainties are piled up, we fall to with zest; and after reviving ourselves with as cheap and wholesome a meal as the thriftiest housewife could have supplied at home, we set out to renew our evening pleasures. How the children got on the back of Maharajah, with the "Old Fogio" acting as Mahout, and how the Editor went spooning in the maze with Aunt Jane, one of these versatile writers has promised to narrate in an early paper. But I may just hint ——.

'No, you won't! We see through the designs of Paterfamilias.—Ep.]

NOTES IN THE CITY COUNCIL.

LUMBERING old vehicle, in the hands of a self-willed and dogged A driver, stops the way of municipal progress. Scarcely a meeting of the City Council passes without some time being taken up with the latest doings of the City Coroner. The latest complaint against Mr. Herford is that he has thought it necessary to hold an inquest on the body of a child which had died from smallpox. Such an act of officialism seems uncalled for and useless, and may prove extremely dangerous in practice. So the event proved in this instance, for one, at least, of the jurymen caught the contagion and died. This is a costly method of arriving at a foregone conclusion, and it is difficult to conceive of its possible justification. Mr. Herford and Mr. Alderman Worthington (whose remarks, so far as they were audible, seemed to tend in the direction of whitewashing him) are of opinion that sufficient precautions were taken against the risk to which it may be supposed all the jurymen who went to view the body were exposed. They never entered the house. Inasmuch as no inquest is legal unless it be held super visum corporis, Mr. Fox Turner naturally inquired whether the jurymen had peeped through the key-hole or peered in at the window, and obtained for answer that the door of the room in which the body lay was left open, and the twelve good men and true successively took their turn at staring in. Comment upon this lamentable case is needless, and we are glad to learn that at next meeting Mr. Turner proposes to raise the whole question of the Coroner's duties by a proposal for a committee of inquiry. Before leaving the subject, we may note that the Coroner's account for fees and expenses during the quarter amounted to £510.

Some conversation concerning Sir Salar Jung—a name upon which Mr. Alderman Bennett, being fond of his own way in all things, bestows a peculiar pronunciation—was useful as giving us a backstairs view of that most mysterious of all subjects—Mayoral Hospitality. Those who have charge of the movements in England of the Prime Minister of the Nizam of Hyderabad, have a tender regard for his Highness's health, and were afraid it might suffer by exposure to a hot dinner at the Mayor's. It would certainly be a pity if our civic hospitality should obtain such a repute that distinguished visitors should thus forecast the consequences, thinking too sadly of the state of their heads in the morning. Mayor Curtis, however, was equal to the occasion, and gravely announced to the Council that his cook was equal to anything from turtle and venison, with punch and champagne, suited to the aldermanic paunch, down to the cold rice and skim milk, which suit the uneducated taste of the ruler of Asiatic millions.

The subject of "furious driving" has scarcely obtained at the hands of the reporters the attention which Mr. Leviathan Walker, who introduced it to the notice of the Council, thinks it deserves. Will it be believed Mr. Walker has nearly been run over himself? We pity the reckless butcher's boy who, haply renewing the attempt, should unhappily succeed. If his cart be not upset, and he sent flying, accompanied with a

shedding of legs of lamb and prime surloins that will out-do any Christmas display at a pantomime, when his wheel mounts over the prostrate form of that ponderous Councillor, may we be there to see! Mr. Harwood also favoured the Council with an "experience." He has actually seen a runaway horse and cart! As he was going home some time ago, about one o'clock ——.

"Night or morning?" interjected the irreverent Town Clerk; whereat the aldermen and councillors, who know what a Mayor's dinner means, laughed consumedly.

"It was a Saturday afternoon," said Mr. Harwood, and to be more precise, and to show the regularity with which he keeps his hours, he added that he was going home to dinner. What Mr. Harwood saw was a lad driving a cart at a reckless rate, and what Mr. Harwood thought and said, though whether to himself or a friend does not appear, was that that lad would speedily come to grief. Hereat Mr. Alderman Bake woke up as if he should have liked to have offered Mr. Muirhead two to one on the butcher, but the Town Clerk eyed him severely, and kept the horsey ones in check. The butcher did come to grief-at all events, his horse did-for within five minutes Mr. Harwood saw the identical horse and cart tearing down the street in the opposite direction to that in which they had originally been proceeding-in fact, coming back; and here the artistic Councillor made a tragic pause, leaving the fate of the luckless driver in suspense. Sheltering himself in a doorway, which happened to be convenient, the intrepid Councillor gained a favourable point of vantage from which he could applaud the eleverness of another man, who took the horse by the bit and timeously checked its wild career. Then Mr. Councillor Harwood lay in wait for that butcher's boy, and intercepting him on his way to recover his master's property, told him that if the property had been his own he would not have risked his neck in losing it. Let us hope that the boy did not know that Mr. Harwood was a councillor and a successful Prophet-and, indeed, he is entitled to the benefit of the doubt, for the prophecy had not been published before it was fulfilled, and common councillors do not go about the streets chained, seeking whom they may pounce upon-for the butcher's boy replied by saying, "You go to-Mr. Harwood did not say where, but by clever pantomimic action, and a dramatic pause, he succeeded in conveying to the densest of his listeners a very exact idea of the locality indicated. We hesitate whether most to admire the graphic manner of the reciter, or the remarkable intelligence of the audience, respecting these parts unnamed. To our surprise, we found, from the hearty laughter and applause with which the common councillors greeted the notion of one of their number being sent to that they rather enjoyed the idea. Mr. Alderman Bennett, on the part of the Watch Committee, adroitly stopped the discussion by seconding Mr. Walker's motion that the attention of the committee should be called to the subject, adding dryly that the subject had already received the best consideration of the Council, and everything had been done, was being done, and would be done that could be done.

Other incidents of the Council are elsewhere noted.

AN AFTERNOON'S FISHING.

BY AN OLD FOGIE.

week, I will proceed to give the recipe which I mentioned for cooking trouts on the river bank, and it is a very excellent one. Having first caught your fish—which reminds me that I am again wandering from my story—I got into a second-class smoking carriage, in which, the train being very full, there was just room for one passenger; and some obtrusive ass, of the sort common enough among Lancashire excursionists, said to me, intending to be witty at the expense of my rod and tacklings, "I say, yer musn't bring them things in here; yer should send them with the luggage." Then I said to that ass quietly, "Was there never a estile-

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mak on to this train that they have put you in here?" and that ass was seemstited, and said no more words to me during that journey. I have actived that the Lancashire holiday-making ass requires to be dealt with in some special way of this kind, and be brought to his bearings promptly. Insult him early, and he is weak and inoffensive; but treat him with ignified contempt, or in any other calm manner, and he is a very amoying fellow. As it was that excursionist, instead of getting a rise out ime, all the time we travelled together just let me alone, and was conand with talking very learnedly to his companions about trees and plants mil they were thoroughly bored. I found that I had fallen in with a party of self-educating men, bent-Heaven save the mark !- on a botanical and geological excursion, and my friend, by reason of his superior intellect and vast knowledge, was the leader. I have come to the conclusion from prious experiences, and reading the City News, that scientific excursions and self-educating improvement societies are bosh, and I shall not prolably change that opinion under any circumstances. The party was now increased by three more, who wedged themselves in somehow. They had all begun the excursion by a liberal consumption of alcohol, and they all smoked bad tobacco except one, and he smoked a bad cigar. Directly the tain started both windows were religiously closed, and were not opened even for an inch till we arrived at a station. Being in a hopeless minority, lould only grin and bear it. Then cards were produced, and one of the fillows had the impudence to propose that they should utilise my Courier to play on. This proposal not being well received, they set to work playing diligently, while I meditated in a violently unfavourable mood on the manners and customs of Lancashire excursionists. Could any people-the most savage, the most degraded, thought I-take their pleasure in a more offensive and unhealthy manner? I was faint and sek with bad air and heat. They did not seem to mind it. It was a beautiful warm day, and I begged an inch or two of window. Two occupants of the carriage immediately alleged bad colds. I believe that the Lancashire population, with all their roughness and brutality, are most effeminate to be found anywhere. Thus I muse, and before those wretches get out I have succeeded in formulating opinions about lancashire folks in general, which I shall not repeat here, for am I not on the subject of trouts and fishing? One young fellow is left in the carriage who is not of the party, and he cheerfully consents to the open window. I breathe again, though my temper is spoilt for the day. To him who seems to know something about fishing I begin, after some general chat, to expound my method of cooking trouts on the bank. Says I, "Having caught your fish "-

TOWN HALL OR CITY HALL P

HE city godfathers and godmothers again got tied on Wednesday on the question of naming the new Town Hall, and this time in a knot which it will take at least another month to unloose. Mr. Alderman Bennett originally desired that the building should be called City Hall, but after putting a motion on the notice-paper to this effect withdrew it, giving us to understand that City Hall he had found on research and reflection to be inadmissible and insupportable. He accordingly changed his notice of motion, and substituted "Guild" for "City." Having conlessed his original ignorance as to the meaning of the word "Guild," he now stated that he found it meant in Saxon "to pay," and as he hoped it paid them all to be councillors, he held that, in the present dull times when everybody else was losing money, the Council was the only Guild paying concern in Manchester, and its Hall should therefore be called Guild Hall—as, moreover—happy afterthought!—the citizens would have to pay for it.

Mr. Alderman Baker, after apologising for his superior erudition, and loping that the councillors of the baser sort would not take offence thereat, pitied the ignorance and bad taste of Mr. Alderman Bennett in dividing Guild Hall into two words. The Saxon tongue was built up

upon the principle of using compound words, and therefore Guild Hall ought to be Guildhall. On the same principle Town Hall should be Townhall, and City Hall should be Cityhall. Whatever title might be adopted this elementary principle should be followed out, or his name was not Mraldermanbaker. However, not to discourage Mr. Alderman Bennett in his new antiquarian pursuits, he should second his motion.

Mr. Joseph Thompson said that Guild did not mean "to pay," but to eat and drink. It did not matter, as the civic debt remaining on many an old corporation testified, whether they paid or not. It also meant the practice of charity, brotherly love, and the decent burial of the dead. Inasmuch as the Council did not care about eating and drinking, did not practice charity, was conspicuous for the absence of brotherly love, and had failed to provide a south-side cemetery—which would suggest to the living men who visited Alexandra Park the prospect of stepping over the way, as at Harpurhey, to view the ground where they must shortly lie—it was not a Guild, and its Hall ought not to be called either Guild Hall or Guildhall. He moved that the name already given to the building, and engraved in brass over the foundation stone, be retained—and made the best speech of the day in favour of his sensible proposal.

Mr. Ben Brierley made a humorous but not very convincing speech in support of Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Harwood and Mr. Stewart objected to the load of fusty stuff which had been unshipped by the antiquarians. They did not care for their forefathers, their customs, or their language. Probably their customs were bad, and their language worse.

Mr. Alderman Heywood complained that Mr. Alderman Bennett had not treated the subject exhaustively, and had not even mentioned Mr. Isaac Gregory. He had himself five or six volumes at home containing the history of all the mayors in England from the earliest times down to the present day, which, if the Council would adjourn, he would bring to next meeting.—(Loud cries of "No, no," and "Voto.")

The Council voted accordingly, and Guild Hall was rejected by the decisive majority of 34 to 18. The title "City" Hall was then sprung upon the Council as a surprise, and after an undignified wrangle, over which the Jackdaw draws a veil, there voted 27 for and 27 against this title. It was finally agreed to adjourn the question for another month. The Jackdaw sincerely pities the case of weak-kneed brethren in the interval.

THE TOWN COUNCILLOR AND THE COAL-SCUTTLE.

HE mind of the Town Clerk has been greatly perplexed at recent meetings by the restless wanderings about the Council Chamber of one of its best-known members. At the General Purposes Committee, last week, Mr. William Birch was looking out of a window on Cross Street, as if keeping his eye on Mr. J. W. Maclure and the Conservative Club, while Sir Joseph was making one of his most important explanations. The Town Clerk, distressed at this conduct, asked Mr. Birch if he could not get a seat, and Mr. Birch, replying that he could not, asked if he might be allowed to fetch a chair. There were many vacant places on the aldermanic bench, but Mr. Birch refused the invitation to come up thus high, and looked as if there were not an inch of sitting space in the room. The truth was that another councillor was sitting in the place which Mr. Birch usually occupies, and to which he has a prescriptive right. At the Council meeting, this week, Mr. Birch sat at the far end of the Chamber on a low perch by the side of the vacant fire-place, like a deserted Cinderella, or, as a Scotch Councillor suggested, with apparent sympathy and commisseration, as if he were on the stool of repentance. When the division came Mr. Birch desired to vote, but the Town Clerk could not or would not see him, and finally, when directly appealed to, said that Mr. Birch was not in his place, and he could not "count chairs." Thereupon, Mr. Birch triumphantly elevated a coal-scuttle, on which it appeared he had been sitting for the previous two hours. As it was held that a coal-scuttle was not a chair, his vote was recorded.

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WHAT FOLKS ARE SAYING.

HAT Dr. Dennis Dowling Mulcahy, of Ireland, after denouncing the Home Rule party at the Circus, on Sunday, kindly consented to be known in future as Dr. Dennis Howling, etc.

That Dr. Morgan, when he said there must be no more tinkering up of the kettle at the Infirmary, was alarmed to see the Chairman getting his steam up, and preparing to spout.

That Mr. Maclure objected to have anything to drink at lunch after the meeting, as so much had been said about drains in the board-room.

That Mr. Birley has consented to go in for a seat at the Marylebone School Board, as he is afraid his educational efforts are not appreciated here.

That one of Mr. Birley's objects will be to restore the original name of the district—Marylegbone.

That Sir John Iles Mantell has become a candidate for the stipendiaryship at Bow—because the dogs here don't like to be treated as vagrants and locked up.

That Sir John has such a horror of dogs that the other night he tried to administer a dose of prussic acid to a tree, which he saw—barked.

That the Cockneys applauded the Manchester Volunteers at the Hyde Park Review most tremendously, as they were delighted to see they hadn't closs on.

That it was very fortunate they didn't get to (c)loggerheads.

That one of the officers who heard this observation fainted, but recovered soon on smelling Adjutant Hartshorn.

That the Prince of Wales, who spoke Welsh in honour of the occasion, told the Princess of Wales that the officer commanding the Manchester brigade was "Penton" making the most of it.

That several of the London specials accounted for the Manchester men marching with a swing as they were drilled at the rope's end.

That the Turks are dreadfully afraid of a Milan-from Servia.

That most of the Russians who have the gout have left Constantinople, as their doctors have advised them to give up—crusty—Porte.

That the person who is said to have been crucified by the Turks, at Philopolis, will never be able to Philopolis man's duties again.

That when Sir Salar Jung comes to Manchester, the Mayor has undertaken to sing, "We'll Salar way with Peter."

That after the scene in the House of Commons, Sir Edward Watkin has invited Sir Robert Peel to breakfast and pistols.

That the latter threatens to inform the peelers.

That in the "Faithful Heart," at the Queen's, Miss Foote doesn't do a break-down, though there is a Con-can-en it.

That Miss Farren must be married, as the bills announce in big type, "Farren Anson,"

That it would be just as well if the Manchester and Salford Corporations laid down their tramways before letting the working of them.

RHYMING UNDER DIFFICULTY.

[BY AN EXHAUSTED POET.]

SIT me down to write, although
I know I shan't succeed;
I form each stanza as I go
With anything but speed.
For thought is somehow simply nil,
And rhymnes are hard to seek,
I'd like to put it off until
The middle of next week.

But no, the task I cannot shirk,
The editor is stern,
He hints that all of us must work
Our daily bread to earn;
He says it's nonsense to complain
Of empty-headedness—
To talk of an exhausted brain,
Says he, is laziness.

Says he, to think you've only got Of some familiar scene, Or of some unfamiliar spot Which you have never seen. It doesn't matter what you take, Or how you treat the theme, So long as you four stanzas make, So many to the ream.

I start, and quickly fancy I'm
On rocks where surges wash,
But out, alas! the only rhyme
Which I can find is "bosh."
It is not inappropriate,
However, you may say—
With joy, at all events, I state
I've finished work to-day.

THE "THUNDERER" AND THE MANCHESTER VOLUNTEERS.

THE Times, speaking of the Manchester Volunteers at the review at Hyde Park, remarks: "Another very fine brigade, the 14th, composed of Lancashire men, under Lieutenant-Colonel Penton, worthily closed the march past. It is no small step from Manchester to London, and the public spirit of these three fine and full battalions deserves more than ordinary praise. They proved by their physique and gallant bearing that the factories have not yet exhausted the warm lifeblood of Lancashire, nor are all Lancashire men like the stunted, and too often drunken, creatures one sometimes sees in the streets when the craving machinery lets them 90 from their daily toil." The italies are our own. We should be glad to know what the "Thunderer" means by such nonsense, and we are dreadfully afraid that some of the "specials" who were sent up to London to do the review for the Manchester newspapers have been hocussing the writer of the Times report. Why, in the first place, can it be disputed that Manchester is the most sober place in the three kingdoms, and that there is less drunkenness to be seen in our streets, even "when the craving machinery lets the workpeople go," than in any other town in Britain? If this was not the case, what good could the Alliance News be doing? or how could Messrs. Raper, Barker, and Co., ever have the face

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to receive their salaries? But apart from this, the Times has clearly been at sea. The Manchester Volunteers are not composed of men who work in our mills; indeed, we have been startled, in working out the statistics of the composition of the various corps, to find what an aristoeratic body our Volunteers are. For the benefit of those who may not be disposed to agree with us, we give the details of the force which left Manchester on Saturday morning last :-

Town Clerk (Corporal)	1
Bishop (Private)	1
Aldermen and City Councillors (in charge of	
Corporal Joe)	35
Cotton Waste Dealers	112
Warehousemen and Clerks	1200
Publicans and Sinners	130
Lady Substitutes, in uniform (whose husbands	
had not got home in time to get dressed)	16
Miss Becker	1
Manchester Philanthropist (with field-glass for	
H.R.H.)	1
Tailors (divided by nine)	3000
Scottish Chief (Malcolm Ross)	1
Factory Operatives	
Total (somewhere about)	3000

DARWINISM AT BOLTON.

THE Bolton Chronicle of this week contains a letter signed "Curious," which again raises the question as to the relationship of man to the monkey tribe. A beerseller in the Eagley district had had for some time a monkey, and when the milk poison set in the unfortunate monkey suffered from the symptoms—just as the family did. Darwinism has not reached such a pitch in Bolton as it has elsewhere, and while the family were carefully doctored professionally, the monkey, who lived on bread and milk, was allowed to get worse without any treatment beyond such as might be suggested to his mind by seeing those around him treated. The family happily got better; the monkey, though it is supposed he felt his own pulse, and looked uncommonly like a physician when he shook his head at his own symptons, got gradually worse, and finally died. Though no inquest has been held on his body, the police of Bolton have not made a noise about the matter, but think the question of Darwinism is settled, for if there had been any real relationship between the monkey and man, undoubtedly the monkey would have taken advantage of the family treatment, and helped himself to the doctor's prescriptions. The county-court judge of Bolton might in such case have had a difficulty, however, in deciding the locus standi of the monkey, had the doctor's fee not been paid.

IS RUSSIA TO HAVE CONSTANTINOPLE?

THIS is a peculiarly interesting question just now, even from a local point of view, and the fact that Manchester is more interested in the matter than any city in the empire, except, perhaps, Liverpool, is an excellent excuse for devoting some space to it. It is not as generally known as it should be that Russia is becoming pre-eminently a manufacturing country. It is not extensively known that it is only the want of a seaport that prevents Russia from competing on equal terms with England in the cotton and woollen manufactures. The Russian genius, originally a manufacturing one, has of late years been supplemented and cultivated by the practical English inventive one, the result being that Russia can at any time produce more than there is a market for at home; and owing to the cheapness of labour, and other advantages, could, if she were not crippled in the way she is, seize on half the trade of Lancashire. There is no fair reason to allege, of course, against this competition. At

the same time, as long as Russia has not got Constantinople, or some other available port, the trade of Lancashire is safe. Now, here comes the pith of the whole matter, about which we shall shortly be called upon to debate, "Is Constantinople worth going to war about, with or without allies?" England will very soon be called upon to answer this question. Russia's tactics are exceedingly clear to those who have watched them. Servia is to fight the Turks, aided, probably, by Russian volunteers and money. If Servia beats the Turks, Russia will be able to shelve the Eastern Question for a few years, and wait the pretext of absorbing Servia, which has swallowed Turkey. If, on the other hand, the Turks beat the Servians, which seems likely enough, then Russia will be bound to step in at once to absorb Turkey, and with it Servia, which has been swallowed. Thus, in either case, England will have very shortly to face once for all the question: "Is Russia to have Constantinople? The answer, when it comes, will be peculiarly interesting to Lancashire people. It must come soon; and meantime let us cry, "Hurrah for the income-tax!"

A WALK IN THE COUNTRY.

BY A NOVICE.

After Hood.

NOW of rambling in the fields the sweet treat greet-

NOW of rambling in the fields the sweet treat greet—
Though 'neath the sultry scorching of July I fry;
Or, better still, where trees their shade below so throw,
That they to save my face from being peeled, yield, shield.
For many weeks the weather's been, I wot not, hot— So in the country I have wandered old, cold, sold; My eye on all the beauties that a man can scan, With a dose of the rheumatics, and (he knows) toes froze. The autumn will be coming soon to free the tree Of the leaves which shelter me, when I, for one, sun shun;

Fine weather is not lasting, which is why I try [There is a lot more of this, which is rather ingenious, but the late Mr. Hood did it much better.—Ep.]

IN THE SALFORD COUNCIL.

HE Salford Council had no business of great importance to transact on Wednesday. The agenda-paper was a long one, and it contained many items of useful legislation, but they were all of the smallest nature; and perhaps in this fact lay the explanation of the painful absence of dignity from the proceedings. The Mayor seemed to be always on his legs, calling some one to order; and even when his worship rested for a moment from this diversion, littleness and pettifogginess occupied the time. The Woodhead picnic first set the ball of small things rolling, and it was never allowed to stop until the adjournment was made. Some years ago, the economists put a check upon the annual trip of the Water Committee-a treat to which the writer, albeit a ratepayer of the borough of Salford, sees no serious objection; for when a number of gentlemen have given their services to the borough gratuitously for a whole year in a most important department of health and utility such as this, he finds no inclination to grumble if, when combining public business with pleasure, and making a profitable inspection of the works at Woodhead, some bottles of Roederer are consumed, and more little luxuries indulged in than tradition has associated with matters of business-and it was decreed that only five members of the committee should participate in the enjoyment. But latterly it has come about that this decree is over-ridden, although not rescinded. It is the practice now to propose that "the committee" shall visit the waterworks, and the resolution being carried, of course all the members of the committee are entitled to go, and we believe there are seldom any absentees. It will scarcely be wondered at when we say that the meeting of the committee, held at the reservoirs, is one of the best attended and most unanimous of the year. This resolution was proposed on Wednesday, and, as usual, it gave rise to some inconvenient questions and uncomplimentary observations; but mere words can't stop a picnic of this kind, not even the sneers of Mr. Walker, who, looking down from his lofty perch in Pendleton, contemptuously remarks that if the Salford people chose to spend their money in this way, it is a matter of perfect indifference to Pendleton. Whereupon honest and indefatigable, but somewhat erratic, Mr. Walker is sat upon by a Salford representative, who asks "Pendleton" to mind its own business; but the wrinkles on Mr. Walker's forehead disappear, and his frown gives place to a smile of triumph when he finds himself unexpectedly championed by Mr. Alderman Walmsley, and a dignified aldermanic snub is administered to the gentleman who so recently had the laugh at Mr. Walker. But members of the Water Committee, although they may be provoked into bandying unpleasantnesses, are not to be deprived of their excursion; and whilst one of their number boldly announces that it is to be purely a pleasure trip, they get their resolution passed, and snap their fingers at the economists who would interfere with their enjoyment. - Another interesting feature in the proceedings of the Council was the speeches of Mr. Mather. There was a great deal more of Mr. Mather than the Council is used to, and it was Mr. Mather in his best form. Nothing could be got past him without comment of a more or less biting nature, and out-Walkering Walker in the constancy of his application, he out-Mathered Mather in his persistence. One of Mr. Mather's best things occurred in a forcible dig at the proposal to purchase Greengate baths, in the course of which he remarked that we had now compulsory vaccination and compulsory education, and he should like to see compulsory bathation; and in the same observation he worked in two other "shuns"-circumcision and cremation-but we forget how they were set. Again, no one but Mr. Mather could have said this: "It is a beastly ugly tunnellified-looking thing," a description which was applied to what Mr. Mather in the same breath called "that abominable piece of work at Blackfriars Bridge," A comment upon this speech not intended to reach Mr. Mather was caught up by him, and a quiet little scene ensued. Mr. Mather said some one had said something about "old women and girls," and asked if the remark was meant to apply to him. This arrested the attention of the separating Council, and when Mr. Alderman Robinson acknowledged the paternity of the observation it seemed as if there was going to be a quarrel. But it blew over, for although Mr. Mather continued for some time to sturdily demand an explanation he at last gave way to a persistent application of patting, hand-shaking, and whispering of disclaimers and other nice things by Mr. Robinson, and before the last member had left the chamber the offending Alderman had thoroughly made his peace. Nevertheless Mr. Mather could not forget, although he had forgiven; and as the aldermen and councillors became a confused heap in the ante-room in a scramble for the best hats, sticks, and umbrellas, his voice was heard above the hum of conversation asking his friends if it wasn't altogether too bad, and sympathetic words and hearty grips compensated him for his temporary and excusable irritation.

CHANCE FOR JUNIOR BARRISTERS.

The county sessions, a day or two ago, Mr. Higgin, the chairman, took some trouble to lay down the fact that there was some difficulty likely to arise to the bar, owing to the assizes being held at Lancaster, and the sessions being held in Manchester. At the same time, "Nobody," said the chairman, "was likely to suffer from the arrangement but the bar." From this view we are glad to say the bar—at least, some of the hardworking rising members of it—somewhat dissent. It is well known that the distinguished members of the assize bar always swallow the principal work at the sessions; and at a meeting of juniors, held after Mr. Higgin had made his speech, it was unanimously resolved—at least, so the devil of the sessions bar informs us—"That the greatest thanks are due and are hereby given to Mr. Higgin, who, while agitating this question, has most considerately winked in a way which no other local judge in Manchester could wink—the effect of which has been that the great guns will go to

the assizes as usual, and the small fry will have the chance of an occasional nibble at a bait in the sessions court." Mr. Higgin, in remembrance of many of the able men who have sat on the Manchester circuit without briefs, ought to be thanked for winking at a judge of her Majesty's court of assize—notwithstanding he is too modest to acknowledge it.

THE ROSE.

[BY A LOVER OF NATURE.]

T was a rose—its petals blushed As over them a poet gushed; I never comprehended quite Why bards to roses sonnets write.

It is a bumptious sort of plant, Of which the poets rave and rant; But I confess I'm one of those Who do not care about the rose.

They tell us that the nightingale Sings to the rose—a likely tale. The nightingale in thickets dense Than thus to act has got more sense.

I do not know why nightingales Should sing at all—but still such tales About the reason for their song Are just a little bit too strong.

The nightingale is not aware, As like as not, the rose is there; It sings upon the bough because It does—which is a saving clause.

We'll leave him now to do his best, When other birds are in the nest; But we have nought to do with those— We're talking now about the rose.

Now, if you pluck from where it grows A growing bud of this same rose, You'll find that on the thorny stalk A thousand tiny insects walk.

A better word, perhaps, is stem— At all events, it's green with them; I asked a friend if he'd describe The habits of this verdant tribe.

Says I, "Pray tell me what are these?"
Says he, "They are the ap-hi-des—
A sort of little insect green
Which haunts the rose, as you have seen.

"This is a curious mystery
Connected with their history;
By ants they are domesticated
As cows;" says I, "What's that you've stated?"

"By ants," says he, "they're kept as cows— You need not cough and knit your brows— Why should not ants have milk, I say, As well as any human beings, pray?

"There was a wise man who was blind, Who left a learned book behind, In which he on the ways discants Most sagely of the bees and ants.

"It was an interesting book "——
Says I, "One fact you overlook;
I like to be polite, but—hem!—it's
How could that blind man see those emmets?

"For stuff of this kind you and I are Too old; I fear you are a liar; My faith in your remarks is shook— How could that blind man write that book?"

Says he, "I will not stand it; why are You always calling me a liar?" Says I, "My friend, I'll tell you why If you will tell me why you lie."

"With this our intimacy closes,"
Says he; says I, "This clump of roses
Just notice how the dew-drops glisten"—
But he was off, he wouldn't listen.

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HALF-HOURS WITH MY MOTHER-IN-LAW.

[BY CLAUDE HENPECK, ESQ.]

IN Two QUARTERS.

Sens.-Bantam Villa. Time, Sunday morning, at breakfast. Present, Mr. and Mrs. Henpeck, the children, and Mrs. Motherington, who speaks. NOW, my dear Emma and Claude, is it not pleasant to reflect that we can all meet thus on the Sabbath morning a united family, and -? Now, Willy, if you fidget about so, you had better leave the enjoy table. What's the child crying for? I looked at him so? Well, Mr. Henpeck, I must say of all the unhappy tempers—but you seem determined to drive me from the house-leave the table, child! What has he ione! Perhaps you will allow me to know something about how children ought to behave. I say that either he or I shall leave the table. Now, Emma, I beg of you not to interfere, though I should be the last person to cause divisions between man and wife. What's all the row about? Row, sir, row! Rows are only in the streets. You wish they were? Oh, go on sneering; women were made for that, perhaps you would like to swear? The children had better all go ? Oh, certainly, sir, if you do wish to use language unfit for publication, though the poor things have had no breakfast. They can get it in the kitchen? Of course, the kitchen and its society is good enough for them. I must say, Mr. Henpeck, that when you give way to your temper you are no better than a Negro to your vife and family. What do you see to laugh at? I am glad the children are gone; in the kitchen they will not be contaminated. I say, sir, you are no better than a Negro, or any other tyrant. Do I mean Nero? Never mind what I mean, sir, that is no excuse for your conduct. What do you say? It is something to be an 'ero in the presence of one's motherin-law? Now, that is so like you, to be making low yulgar jokes on a Sunday morning. Don't swear before the maid, at all events. A nice preparation such a scene as this for the house of worship. You are not going to church? Not going to church-not -....... I have long suspected you of being an atheist, but I little thought my daughter's husband would have turned out a Nonconformist before my eyes. Anything for a quiet life, and you will go if I go? A nice way that to talk of your wife's mother, and the House of ---. I can't talk there, at all events? No, sir, thank Heaven I know my duty better; I have a higher sense of human wickedness than that. Make it up, there's a dear soul? Well, I am not aware that there is anything to make up. I daresay, though, you did not mean to be unfeeling, only a man is privileged to say anything. What have you said? Well, well, I wish to go to church in a happy frame of mind, and nothing shall provoke me to be angry. What did you say? Now, really, I appeal to you, Emma, if this is not unmanly. First of all, Mr. Henpeck drives the children from the room in a brutal manner, though he knows I like to sit down with them; and then, after making use of the most profane language ---. What did I say? Mr. Henneck, once for all I shall not pollute my lips, with the bells ringing

[I went out among the gooseberry bushes, and soothed my feelings with a smoke, as I pondered over domestic blessings.—C. H.]

SECOND QUARTER.

Scene. - Coming home from church. Mrs. Motherington speaks.

Mr. Henpeck, if you must smoke a nasty dirty pipe, I wish you wouldn't earry it to church in your pocket. You didn't carry it in your pocket? Well, if you didn't you might just as well; indeed, better, for the smell of stale smoke in a man's clothes is abominable. I'm certain, though, if the truth were known, that pipe is in your ——. You haven't smoked a pipe for a month? Do you remember the fate of Annas and Caiaphas—I mean Ananias and Sapphira? What do you say, Emma? Your husband is not a liar? A pretty thing that my own daughter should throw her husband's pipe in my face. He meant that he only smoked a cigar, and you saw him? Well, what if he did? Why can't he speak out like a man,

and own to his extravagance? Cigars, indeed, costing, I daresay, sixpence apiece, when a pipe is just as good if he must indulge in such a -. I talk about it as learnedly as if I smoked myself! habit, and costs -That's a wicked speech for a daughter to make to the being that bore her; but you are quite right to stand up for your husband. Of course, I shall go to-morrow, nothing shall induce me to stop. It was very lucky that you happened to see him smoking the cigars. It is lucky for your peace of mind that you cannot see what other folks see. What do I mean? No, not for worlds, I am not going to set my daughter against her husband, and then get nothing but abuse for my pains. You are sure he has been very attentive to-day? Oh, yes; you mean he has been to church. The whole parish knows that-he snored so loud in the sermon. What, Mr. Henpeck, you were not asleep, and you didn't snore ? And pray, sir, how do you know that you didn't snore? and perhaps you will deny that I pinched you several times to wake you up. You needn't rub yourself in that indelicate way, with people looking; and perhaps you will say that you weren't staring at Miss Lovegrove's bonnet all the time! You didn't notice her bonnet? Oh, of course, with such an eye for female beauty, you don't pay attention to bonnets! What do you say? D---! Emma, I leave the house to morrow.

[If other men have relations like mine they will have noticed that a mother-in-law, if ever her daughter should side against her, has a very dexterous manner of saving her position, and bringing on by a series of combined skirmishes a three-cornered battle, in which the man is sure to be worsted. Whenever my wife takes up my battles I feel that I am sure to suffer for it all the more. Miss Lovegrove was the innocent casus belli, and I was the innocent victim. A mother-in-law is as great in resource as a cuttle-fish, but the worst of it is she never retreats. Mine did not leave on Monday.—C. H.]

HINTS ON PROSE WRITING.

[BY OUR OWN POET.]

YOW to write poetry without any idea at all in one's head I have already shown. I will now proceed to give similar hints with regard to prose writing. Of course, the hints must be taken with some reservation, like those advertisements one sees about "health restored without having recourse to quacks," etc. It is doubtless a very great accomplishment this, at any moment, or at a moment's notice, to be able to write whole columns, irrespective of the dearth of subjects. I do not know, however, whether it is a very useful accomplishment, but there are so many accomplishments which are elegant, and at the same time utterly useless for practical purposes. Now, for a man who has no ambition in the way of making money, I know of no prettier accomplishment than the mastery of an elegant style of writing pure English. There can hardly be conceived a more stirring feeling of satisfaction than that enjoyed by the man who can, with a stroke of the pen, amuse or edify numbers of his fellow-creatures; but when you come to the actual utility of the thing, you will perceive that matters are different. I suppose that the pupil is in the happy position of being obliged to earn his living, on the happiness of which state I could write an essay. He is, I say, a sort of human locomotive, of which he himself is also-mysterious agencythe driver and stoker. Moreover, he has to find his own coals. It is a strange thing to think that all this struggle that is going on all over the world, this clang of battle, and cheating, and lies, and groans, this clash and wrangling of voices towards the skies, is caused simply by the existence on this planet of some millions of bellies to be filled, of backs to be clothed. The human body is a furnace which requires stoking every day, or oftener, as it may be deemed necessary. I am a stoker; you, my pupil, are a stoker; our mouths are the stoke-holes, and beef, mutton, and bread, etc., are the coals which we require. It may be that we have other stoke-holes dependent on us for their supply of coals. We must work to get the

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supply; and happy he who has not himself alone to work for! These coals, mind you, are not to be found beneath all grounds. There are delicate hands that are hurt and wounded through digging in wrong places. There are strong ones that claw stupidly the ground, and cause much nail-breaking, and the cwners thereof to curse their day. There are ——; but, as a matter of fact, this art of prose writing has proved so useless to many possessors thereof that I, humble professor thereof, do but undertake to teach it under the plain understanding that it be learnt as an accomplishment, carried on as a pastime, and by no means considered under any circumstances as a means towards obtaining any of that supply of coal which is necessary to the stoking of the human machine. The pupil may now read carefully over again this lesson.

A CONFESSION.

BY A BELEAGURED BACHELOR.

HEN past are winterly storms and rain,
And whispering zephyrs fill the air,
And all the earth is alive again
With tender verdure and blossom fair,
'Tis then the myriad hosts of birds,
That roam the woods and the skies above,
And all the wandering flocks and herds
Are smitten anew with the pangs of love.
Heigh-ho!
Cupid's bow
Never is idle then, I trow.

But though the quickening vernal beams
For many a year have warmed my breast,
And ev'ry recurring season seems
To threaten me more than all the rest—
Though many a maiden, fair and gay,
Has harried me oft with word and eye,
And made me feel in a desperate way,
I've never surrendered—no, not I!
Heigh-ho!
Wary and slow!
Wedding is chancy work, you know.

I nearly succumbed to a fierce attack
That once was made, in a distant clime,
On my heart by a maid with a visage black,
And a name unsuitable quite for rhyme.
And once with a red-haired Irish girl
I made of myself an awful fool—
'Twas in the ball-room's maddening whirl,
When our heads were hot and our heels were cool.
Heigh-ho!
Heel and toe!
That is the way one's senses go.

Once in the land of wolves and bears
I fell in love with a proud princess,
Who turned my head with her dainty airs
(My years were few and my brains were less);
And after the seventh sleepless night
I fatally vowed to pop the question,
When the pangs of love were extinguished quite
By a timely fit of indigestion.
Heigh-ho!
Friend or foe,
Women are born to work us woe.

I've known 'em widow, I've known 'em maid,
For many a year, in many a land;
And the wily tricks of each artful jade
Are easy enough to understand.
But still when any one says to me,
"Sooner or later your time will come,"
Though perfectly fearless I feign to be,
It makes me feel excessively glum.
Heigh-ho!
Willing or no,
Sooner or later I'm bound to go.

THEATRICAL GOSSIF.—We understand that a new comic opera by Mr. Cellier will be produced at the Prince's Theatre, in October, founded on the story of Noll Gwynne.—The pantomime at the Prince's Theatre will be Sinbad; at the Royal, the latest edition of Robinson Crusoe.

THE THEATRES.

HE change from classical English comedy to flimsy burlesque and broad farce goes somewhat against our stomach; but still, if we may take in evidence the merriment evoked by Miss Farren and Mr. Anson, at the Royal, the taste for high-class drama by no means clashes with that for less solid entertainment. Our admiration of Miss Farren is not profound, but she is still as amusing as heretofore in her own obtrusive line. Of Mr. G. W. Anson's performance it may be observed that it is a pity so good an artist should be saddled with the temptation to sorry buffoonery, which, such as it is, brings down the house. "Young Rip Van Winkle" does not belong to the order of burlesques which may be called sparkling, but it is well mounted; and the various performers deserve the applause they get from somewhat scanty audiences. Possibly the "Hypochondriac's" doleful cry, "After all, it is only the weather," may be urged as an excuse for thin houses.

Thin houses should not have been the rule this week at the Prince's, the programme considered; and, indeed, the audiences have been very fair ones. The chief feature of the week has been a very beautiful set piece, called "The Snowstorm Ballet." The mounting of this piece is quite exquisite, and the dancing by the Sisters Elliot, and others, good and graceful. The dresses are costly, and, what is more, in good taste, showing evidence also of having been prepared "for this occasion only." It is evident that vast expense and pains must have been used in the production of this ballet, which has never before been performed in England, and, indeed, will challenge for beauty anything which we have ever seen of this kind. The extraordinary effect produced by a mimic fall of snow must be seen to be believed, the ordinary stage snowstorm being altogether distanced. Mr. Stanislaus contributes the music, which, says the programme, is original. It is pretty and appropriate, say we. The opera bouffe, "L'Archiduc," is not, as some of our contemporaries seem to think, being performed here "for the first time in England;" nor, indeed, is it remarkable as one of Offenbach's most original works. Being full, however, of catching melodies, which revive memories of many pantomimes and multitudinous organ-grinders, the ears are tickled in a not unpleasing manner. Otherwise we thought the performance a very slow one, and were heartily glad when it was over.

At the Queen's, popular audiences have been amused by a "great" drama, called "The Faithful Heart," in which, though the same scenery is made to do duty for Cheshire and Australia, there is some merit of the outrageous sort. The "Old Fogie" could not say much in favour of the delineations of Australian life and habits, but the rest of the audience were pleased, and several stabbing and poisoning episodes varied the virtuous monotony of the stage. Miss Foote and Mr. Concanen both act well, and are ably supported by a company above the local Bridge Street average.

NOTICE.—The "City Jackdaw" will be forwarded, post free, to any address, at 1s. 8d. per quarter.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- Articles intended for insertion must be addressed to the Editor of the City Jacklaw, Market Street Chambers, Manchester, and must bear the name and address of the sender. We cannot be responsible for the preservation or return of MSS, sent to us.
- A. Little.—It would be too much for the reader.
- Cruelty to a Child at Ashton.—It would be cruelty to grown-up people in Manchester.

 Pathetic verses are out of your line.
- A Lover of Truth under all Circumstances.—This being so, we have no hesitation in writing you down an ass.

 Table Talk, F. Moore.—Our table has a basket underneath it. We need say no more.
- P.—Much obliged.
 J.F., gratis.—In spite of your possession of a "private fortune," we are bound to consider the unfortunate public.
- The Narrow Way .- Your MS. is on the other road, which leads to destruction.
- A Munaterman's Joke, C. L.—No Munater in human form ever made a worse one.

 C. W. M.—We do not know the derivation of the word "loafer," unless it means a leaf fellow. Besides, as a rule, we do not answer questions.
- W. F. H.—It is very well for your own private recreation to make "boots" rhyme with "hair," and "home" with "teapot;" but we must decline those verses, with thanks for the offer.

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